



Key Changes to the RMW Regulations Related to Compliance June 19, 2002



Permitted Facilities Have 6 Months to Comply - (9 VAC 20-120-830) "Owners and operators of existing and permitted infectious waste management facilities are not required to submit an application for a new permit at the time these amended regulations become effective. Existing permits will remain valid, except that conditions or waivers in existing permits that conflict with these amended regulations are void on the date six months from the effective date of these amended regulations. Operators of existing facilities are required to comply with these amended regulations within six months following their effective date and may comply at any time with any item contained in this chapter in lieu of a conflicting condition contained in an existing permit."

Interpretation: Permitted facilities may choose to comply with the amended regulation any time after the effective date, but they must comply with the amended regulation within 6 months from the effective date (December 19, 2002.)

On-Site Storage Permits are no Longer Required - (9 VAC 20-120-170) As long as a facility complies with the conditions of an exemption, they are not required to have a permit for on-site storage. Facilities generating more than 100 gallons/week and storing over 200 gallons on-site are still required to store waste in accordance with 9 VAC 20-120-330. They must have a designated storage area that meets the storage area requirements in 9 VAC 20-120-330. The areas where over 200 gallons of waste is stored are considered designated storage areas.

Within 6 months of the effective date of the regulations, DEQ Central Office will send out a letter to all permitted on-site storage facilities voiding their permit. Facilities will have the option to hold a permit, but a permit will not be required. Facilities choosing to hold a permit will be required to reapply.

Packaging Labeling - Waste in the designated storage area must be package and labeled properly. The point of compliance for packaging and labeling is the designated storage area.

Refrigeration - Waste is required to be refrigerated within 7 days of being placed in the designated storage area, not within 7 days of generation.

Definition of Regulated Medical Waste has Changed - Adequately absorbed blood or body fluids are not considered regulated medical waste. (e.g. A gauze pad that is saturated and dripping is considered a regulated medical waste. A sheet with numerous blood spatters that is not saturated would not meet the definition of regulated medical waste.) In general, if there is a splash hazard the material is regulated.

Exempt Items - A list of items that are exempt from regulation is provided in 9 VAC 20-120-130 C. There are lists of items used for personal hygiene, items when they are empty, a general list, and a list of absorbent items. There is a definition for empty in the regulation.

For specific questions regarding the new medical wastes regulations, please contact VA DEQ's Mike Dieter at 804-698-4146 or mjdieter@deq.state.va.us.